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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE US STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS
(12-18 August 1977)

NR

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LATIN AMERICA

-- Chilean President Pinochet announced the abolition of the notorious National Intelligence Directorate (DINA) on August 12. Most of DINA's personnel are to be absorbed by a newly-

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created National Information Center. The Center, however, is supposed to be strictly an intelligence organization, and it will have no authority to engage in police activities. DINA's arrest and detention functions are to devolve upon the Carabineros and Investigaciones--highly regarded professional law enforcement units. *Extra-legal activities will, of course, still be possible under the new arrangement, but the security service reorganization does seem to represent a genuine attempt to curtail human rights abuses. Announcement of DINA's demise during the visit of Assistant Secretary of State Todman was obviously designed to maximize the move's expected impact on relations between Chile and the US. The Chilean regime has heretofore tried to avoid the impression that its domestic policies are being affected by the US stand on human rights.*

-- The Argentine government reportedly has tightened control over its anti-subversive operations, and new guidelines have been issued regarding the handling of suspects and the expediting of their cases before military or civilian courts. *At the same time, however, there has apparently been an increasing resort to violence on the part of ultra-conservative military elements for internal political purposes--e.g., embarrassing President Videla--not necessarily related to the campaign against terrorism.*

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